REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wierszewski (US 5,826,157) in view of Malachowski (US 5,337,135). In the rejection, the examiner stated that Wierszewski "does not clearly teach" a controller controlling the speed of the insert sheets from the inserter. The Applicants agree with the Examiner.

The Examiner states that Malachowski teaches a controller which controls "the sheet feeding rate or speed of the drives for feeding the sheets via a variable speed drive and the controller as shown in Figs 1 and 2 of Malachowski." The Examiner also states that Wierszewski teaches the image-forming production system including the use of insert sheets and that the present invention would be obvious when this is viewed in light of the variable speed controller of Malachowski because it would make it obvious to "improve the efficiency of inserting the insert sheets with the printed sheets at a desired speed by replacing the controller 100 of Wierszewski" with the variable speed controller of Malachowski. O.A. Pages 2-3.

The present invention describes and claims an image-forming production system including a marking engine that prints an image onto a sheet and feeds the printed sheet at a first speed along with an insert supply that feeds the insert sheet to the inserter at a second speed. An inserter speed adjust unit sequentially receives the printed sheet at the first speed and the insert sheet at the second speed and outputs both at a third. Wierszewski solves the paper speed problem in a different manner. Wierszewski solves the problem by delaying sheet 120 "a time COF" and then releasing the paper with clutch 183 (Col. 12, lines 37-40). The sheets are always fed at the same time but are held at a dwell point, if necessary, before releasing them. Wierszewski does not increase and decrease the paper feed speeds as described and claimed in the present invention.

Malachowski concerns a duplex printer that uses an "interleaving mode", as represented in Table 2. Malachowski uses speed to create gaps that can be used to make room for the interleaved sheets. If this teaching was viewed with Wierszewski then the interleaved sheets would be held "a time COF" and then released with clutch 183 (Col. 12, lines 37-40) when gaps were made by the

timing adjustments as shown in Table 2. The sheets would still be fed at the same time but would be held at a dwell point before they were released. This is not the solution that is claimed in the present invention nor does it make that invention obvious.

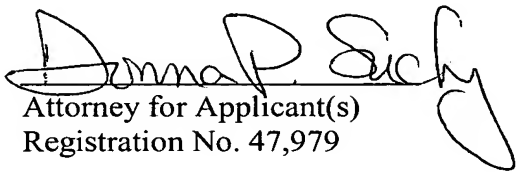
Merely substituting the timing solution of Malachowski, as stated in the rejection, does not provide the missing limitation found in Wierszewski as discussed above. In the absence of such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection on this basis is in error and request that it be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malachowski in view of Wierszewski as applied to claim 1. The applicants repeat the arguments presented with respect to claim 1, and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-7 and 11-20 on this basis be withdrawn.

Finally, with respect to the combination of Malachowski and Wierszewski in all rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that neither provides sufficient objective motivation, for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, to modify Wierszewski in the manner attempted.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9 and 11-20 are allowable in their present form, without a restriction, and hereby request such allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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